

Remarks

Claims 1-11, 14, 15, 18, and 19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11, 14, 15, 18, and 19 have been rejected.

By way of this response, Applicant cancels claims 10-13 and 19 and amends claims 1 and 6-9.

Interview with Examiners

Applicant had a telephonic interview with Examiner Jose Stephens and Examiner Ehud Gartengerg on August 19, 2009. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's interview summary mailed on August 21, 2009⁰ in that agreement with respect to the claims was reached during the telephone interview. Furthermore, Examiner Gartengerg indicated that the amendment should place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant thanks Examiner Stephens and Examiner Gartengerg and for their suggestions and consideration

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-11, 14, 15, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,906,274 issued to McEwan ("McEwan"). Further, Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McEwan. Applicant amended claims 1 and 6-9. Accordingly, Applicant believes the claims as amended define over McEwan.

Applicant amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations from claim 11 with the addition of "and wherein the thread connects to the button and to the hook", as agreed to in the interview. As such, Applicant believes independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance, as discussed in the interview.

Also, Applicant amended claims 6-9 in order to correct antecedent basis for the dependent claims, as requested by the Examiners. As such, claims 2-9, 14-15, and 18, for which 1 is the base claim, are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant has amended the application to place it in condition for allowance, as discussed in the interview. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims of this application in view of the above amendments and remarks and request that the Examiner pass this case to issue.

The Petition fee of \$65.00 is being charged to Deposit Account No. 02-3978 via electronic authorization submitted concurrently herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,
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